Modernisation of RSP

482. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on modernising Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP);

(b) the results of modernisation;

(c) the production output comparative figure of each unit before and after modernisation;

(d) whether modernisation has been successful; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The amount spent on the modernisation project of RSP up to March, 2000 is Rs. 3852.81 crore (after adjustments resulting from restructuring of SAIL).

(b) to (e) The aim of modernisation was to reduce old and obsolete technology, overcome production bottlenecks, improve productivity, conserve energy and attain higher level of production. After modernisation, the performance of RSP in terms of techno-economic parameters i.e. blast furnace productivity, coke rate and energy consumption as well as quality of products has shown significant improvement. Also the production through ingot route has been completely phased out and 100% production is being done through continuous casting route. In so far as the performance of the plant in quantitative terms is concerned despite the modernised facilities having become available, the production at RSP had to be regulated due to sluggish market conditions and one Blast Furnace has been shut down since April, 1999. Facilities in the modernisation project were commissioned progressively after 1995-96 and the comparison of production in different units before and after modernisation is given below:

(in'000 Tons)

Units	Actual		
	1995-96	1999-2000	2000-2001
			(up to Jan'2001)
Sinter Plant-II	—	1991	1174
Blast Furnaces	1302	1352	1178
Continuous Casting-I	—	183	147
Continuous Casting-II	—	998	888
Hot Strip Mill	732	954	894